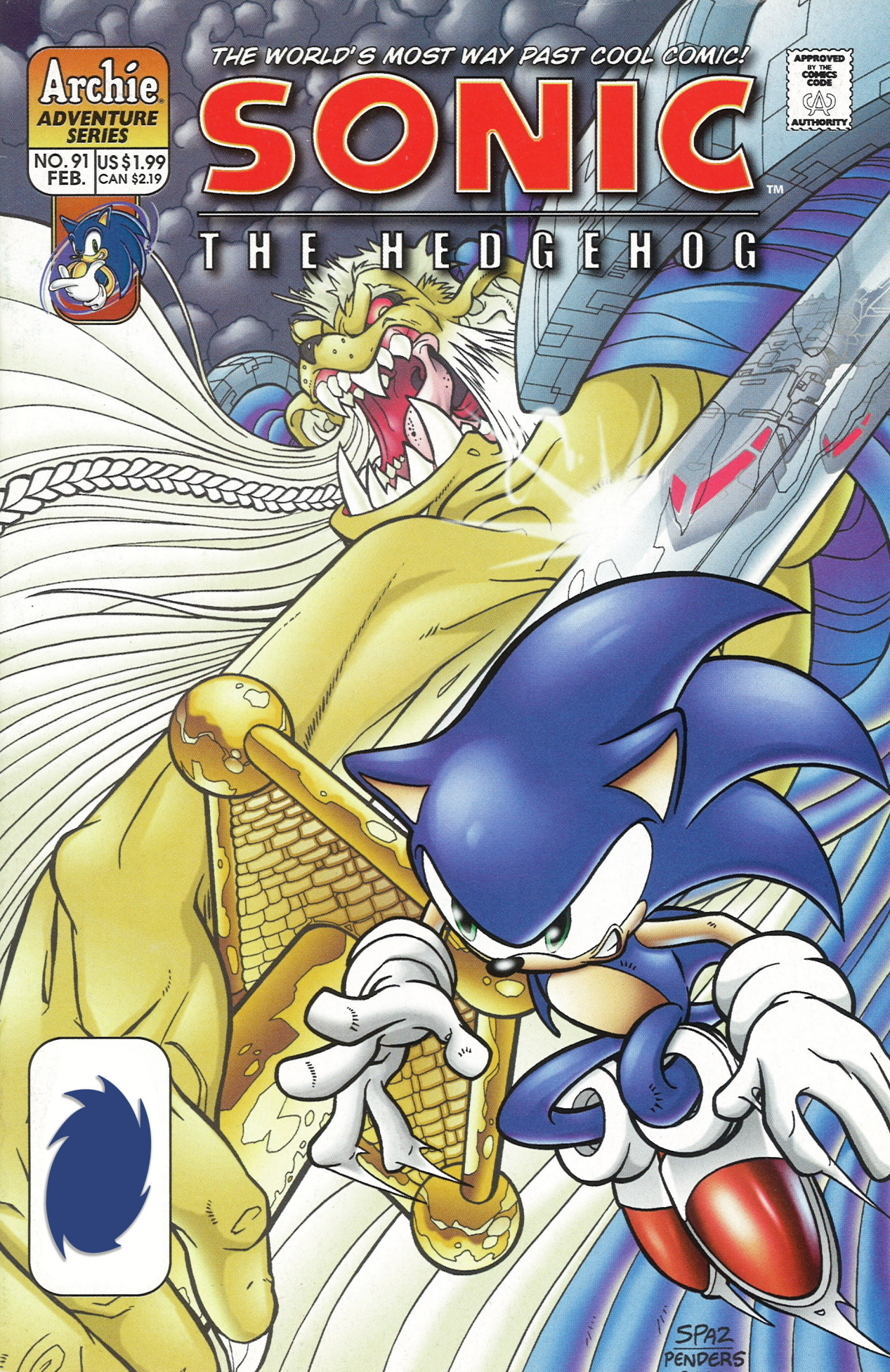
Archie
ADVENTURE SERIES
NO. 91
FEB.
US $1.99
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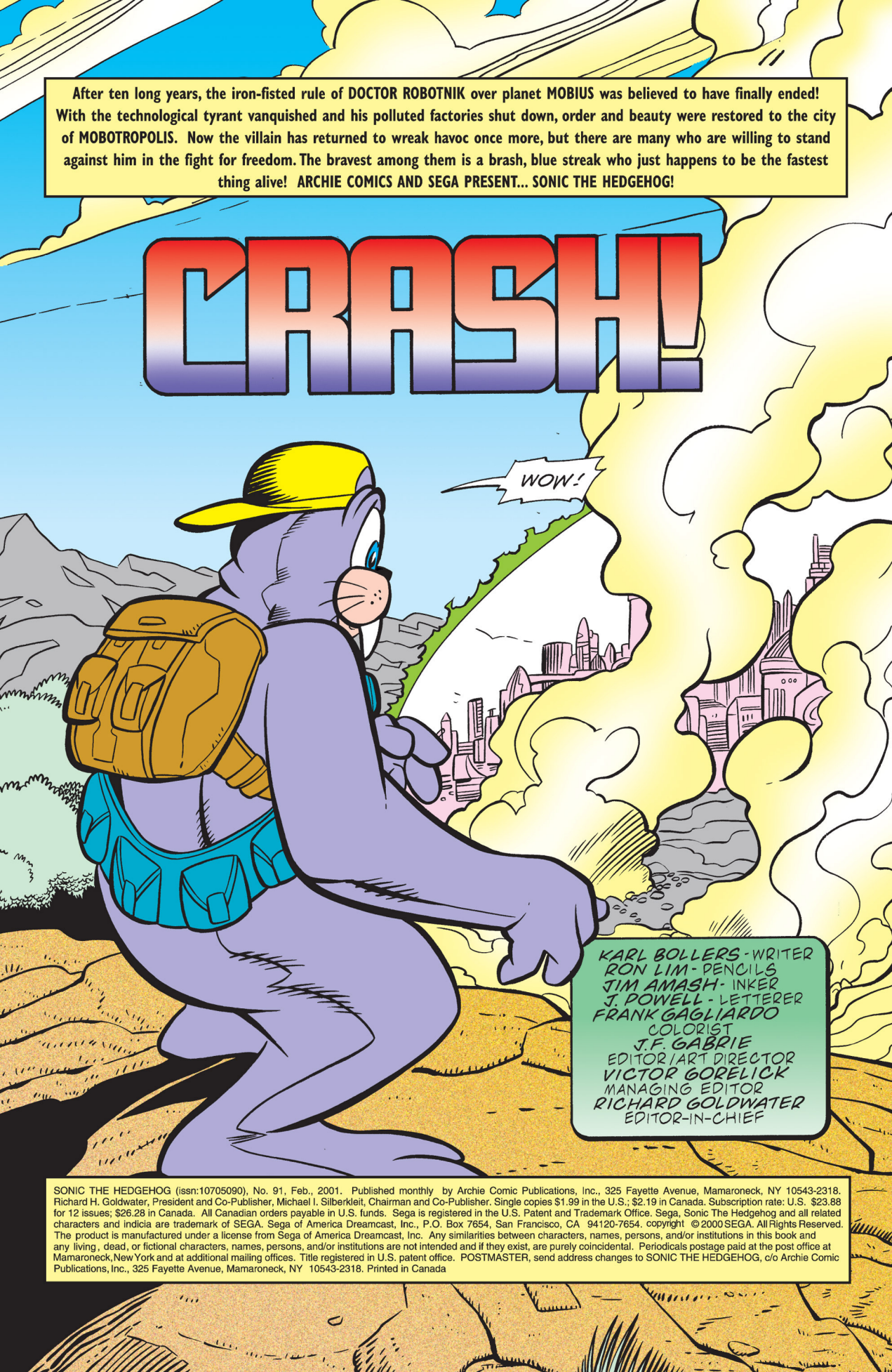
THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!
SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
SPAZ
PENDERS

N THE FORBIDDEN ZONE...
JUST A BIT FURTHER, AND I'LL BE HOME IN KNOT--
--HOLEY--
WHOOOOOM
!

After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

CRASH!



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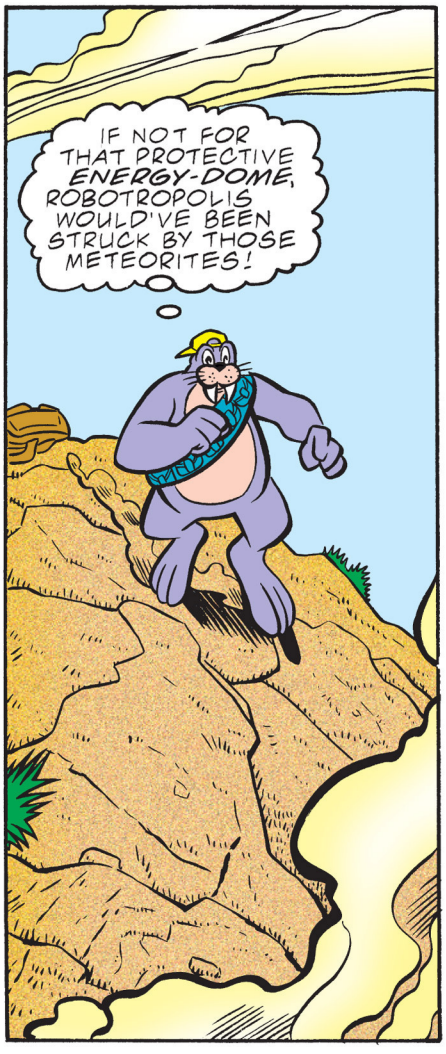
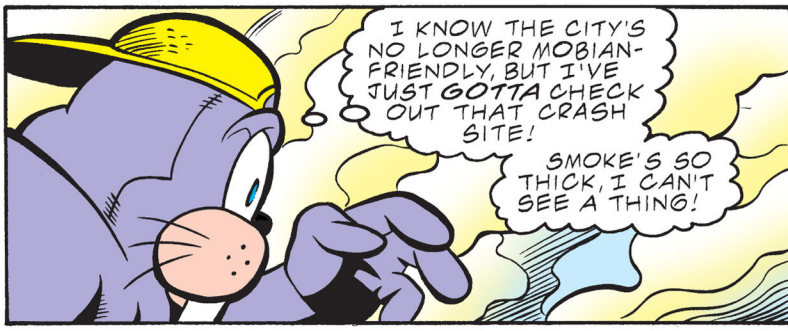
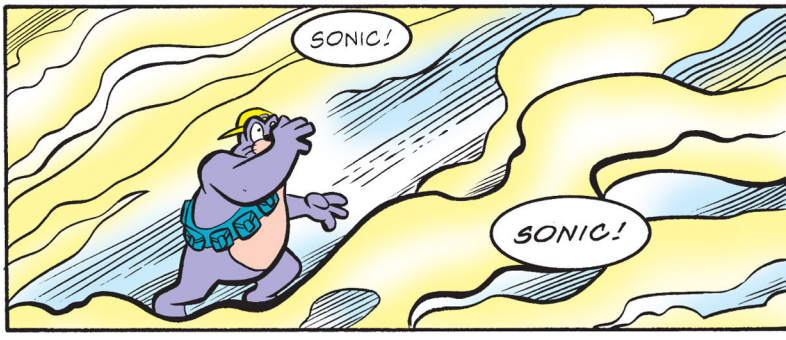
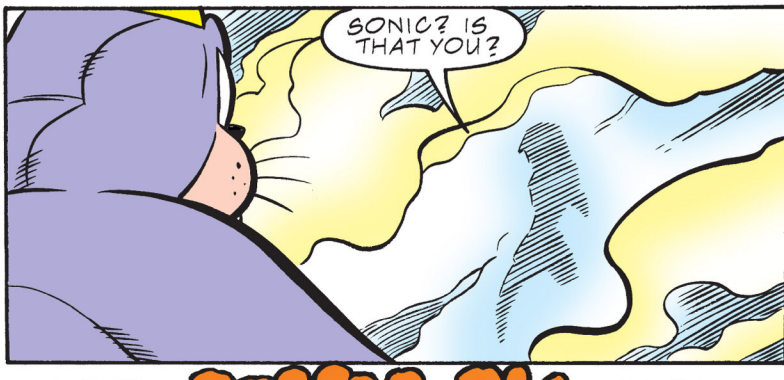
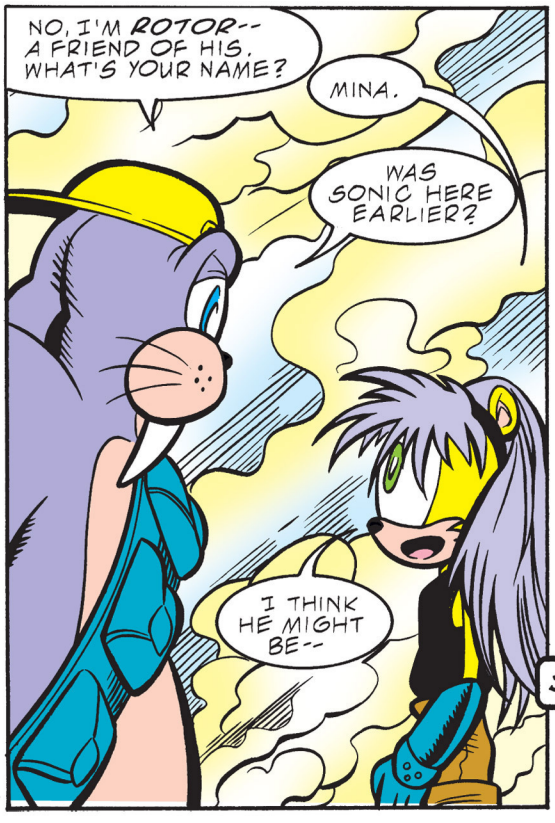
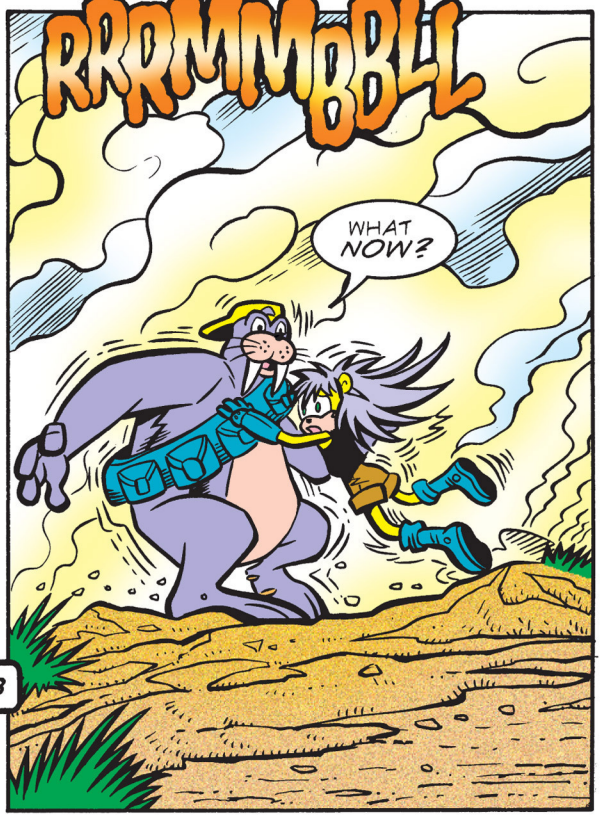

IF NOT FOR THAT PROTECTIVE ENERGY-DOME, ROBOTROPOLIS WOULD'VE BEEN STRUCK BY THOSE METEORITES!

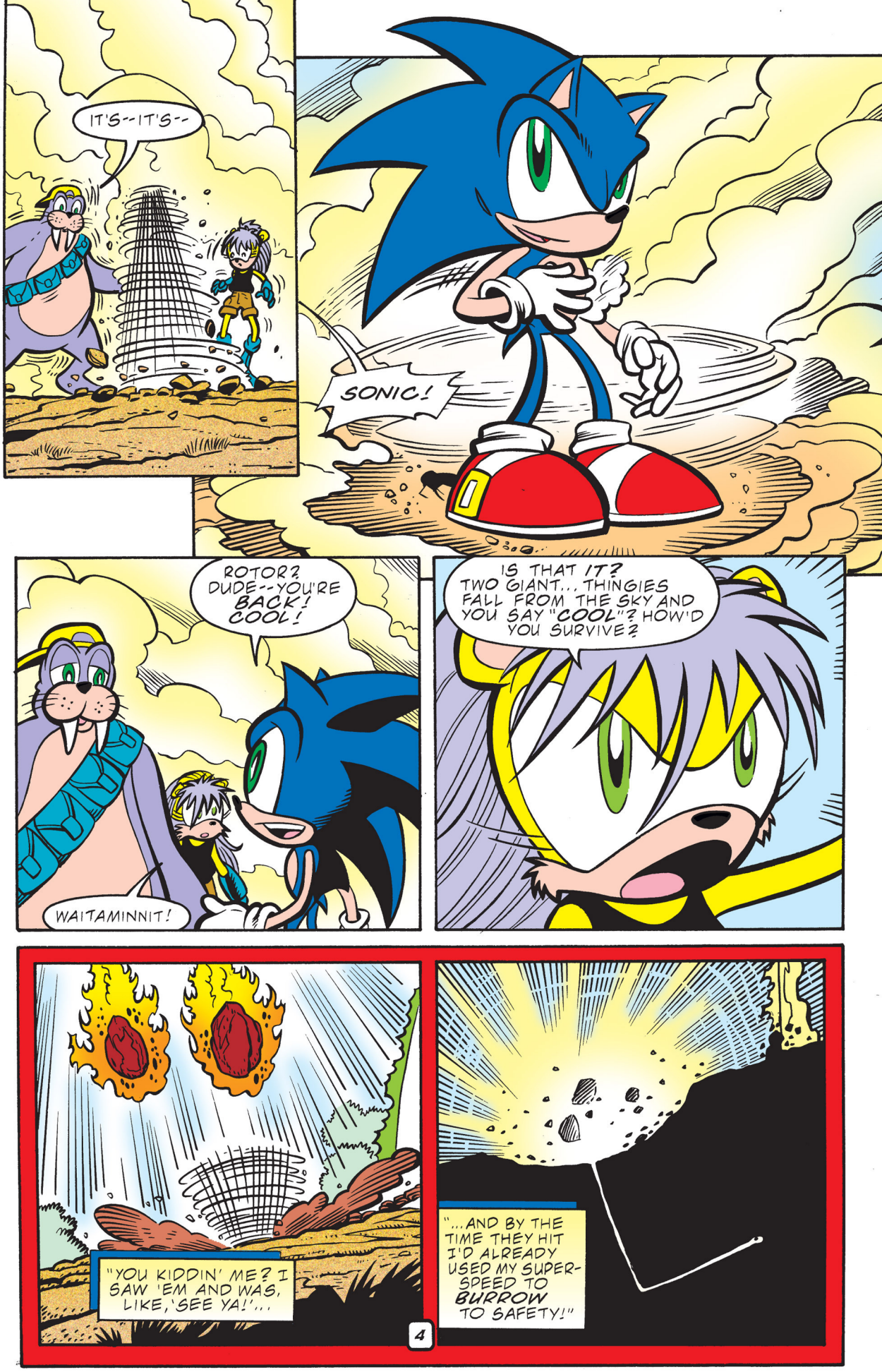

I KNOW THE CITY'S NO LONGER MOBIAN-FRIENDLY, BUT I'VE JUST GOTTA CHECK OUT THAT CRASH SITE!
SMOKE'S SO THICK, I CAN'T SEE A THING!


SONIC!
SONIC!

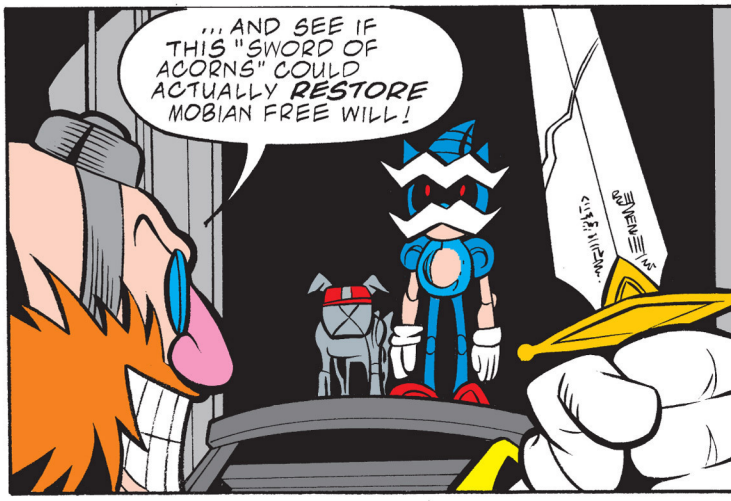

SONIC? IS THAT YOU?

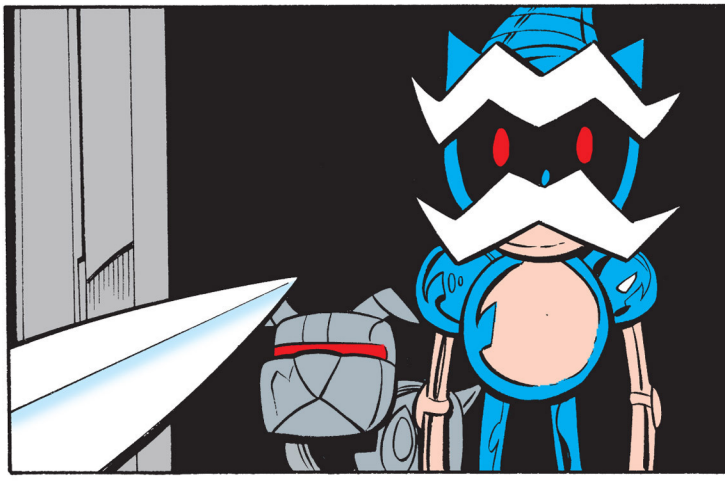

NO, I'M ROTOR-- A FRIEND OF HIS. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
MINA.
WAS SONIC HERE EARLIER?
I THINK HE MIGHT BE--

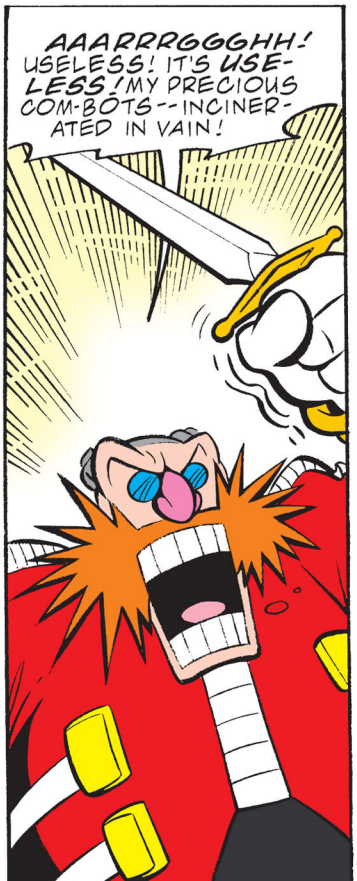

RRRMMMBBLL
WHAT NOW?

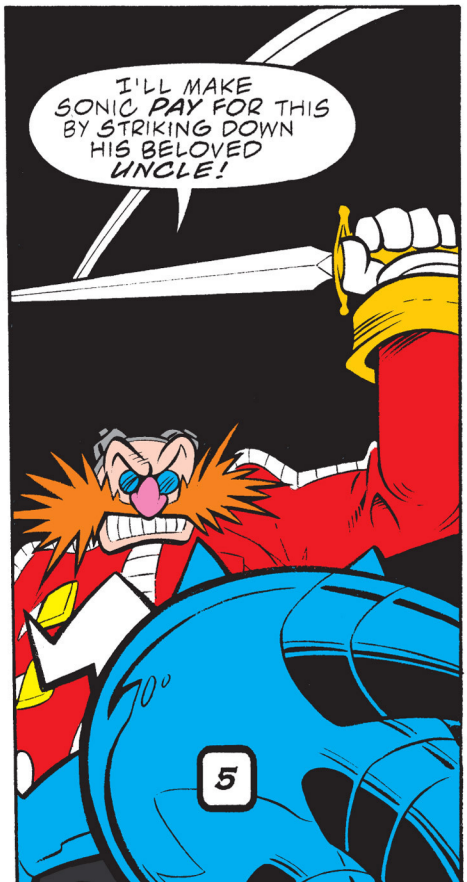

IT'S--IT'S--
SONIC!
ROTOR? DUDE--YOU'RE BACK! COOL!
WAITAMINNIT!
IS THAT IT? TWO GIANT... THINGIES FALL FROM THE SKY AND YOU SAY "COOL"? HOW'D YOU SURVIVE?
"YOU KIDDIN' ME? I SAW 'EM AND WAS, LIKE, 'SEE YA!'...
"...AND BY THE TIME THEY HIT I'D ALREADY USED MY SUPER-SPEED TO BURROW TO SAFETY!"
4

DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S BASE...
NOW THAT THOSE METEORITES HAVE FALLEN--AND KILLED SONIC TO BOOT--I CAN SHUT OFF MY ENERGY-SHELL...

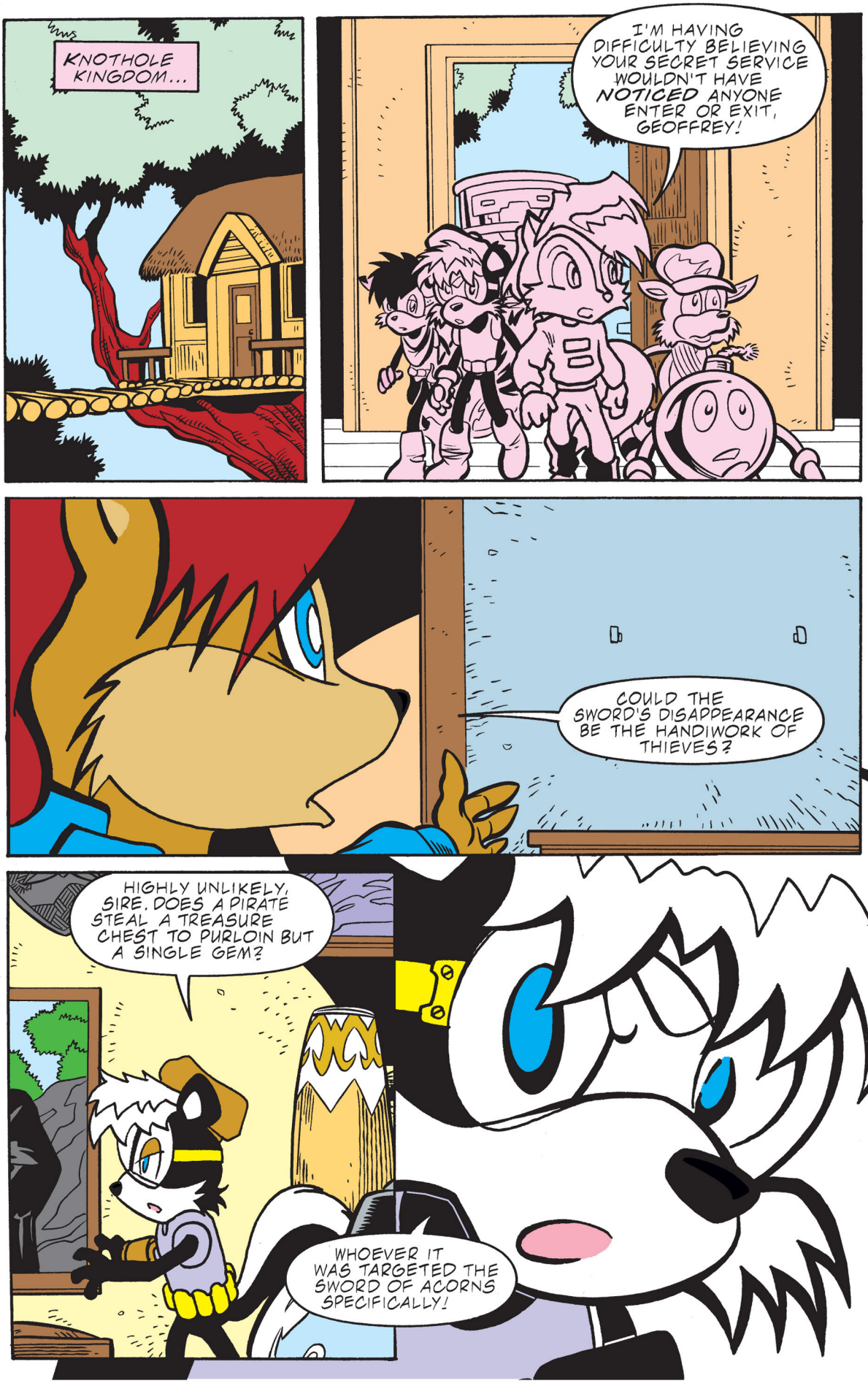

...AND SEE IF THIS "SWORD OF ACORNS" COULD ACTUALLY RESTORE MOBIAN FREE WILL!

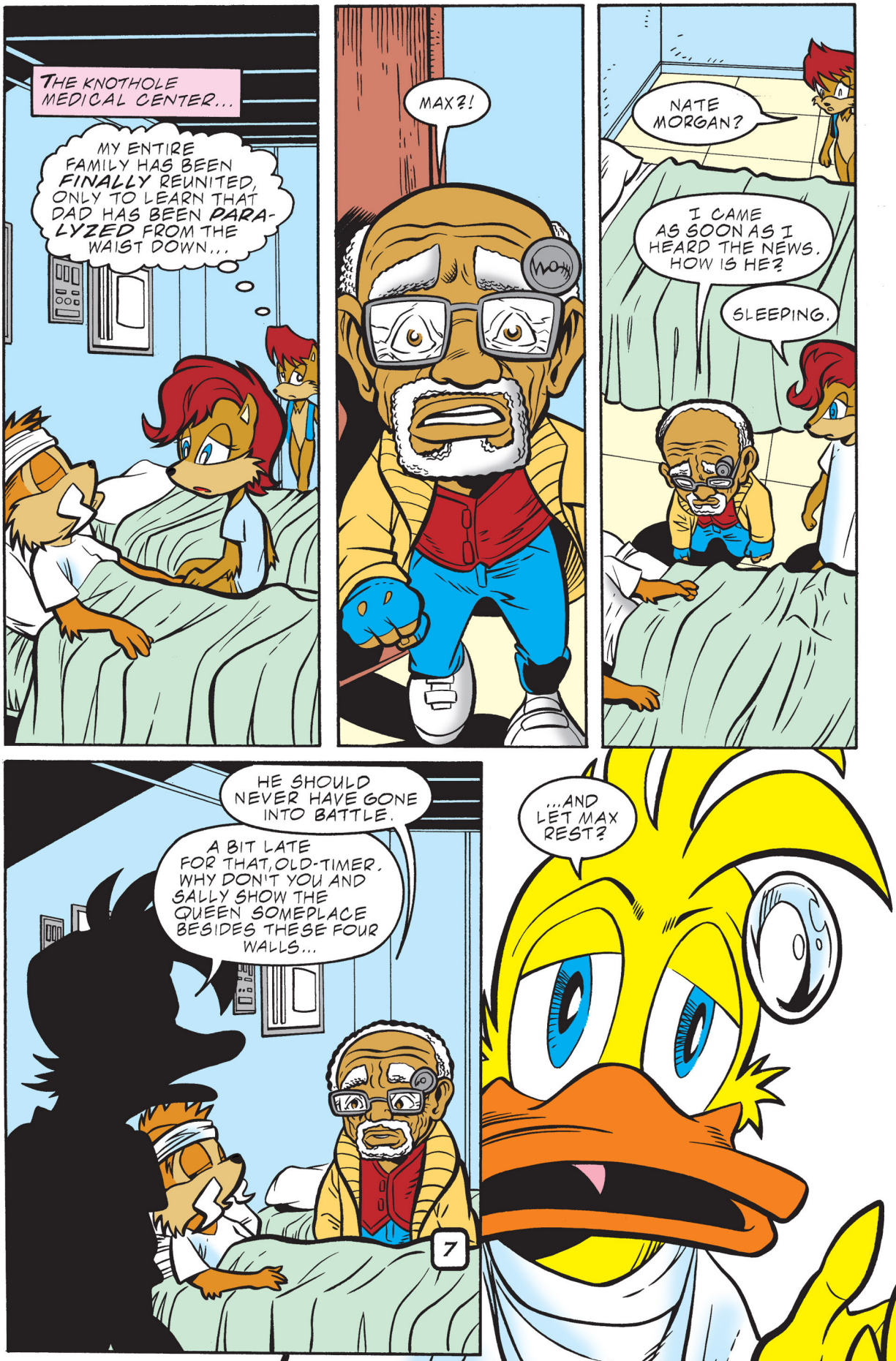


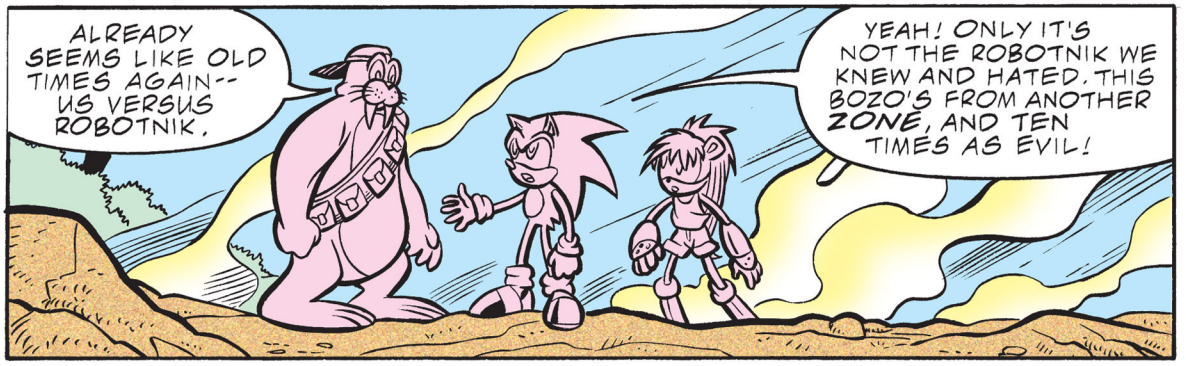

AAARRRGGGHH! USELESS! IT'S USE-LESS! MY PRECIOUS COM-BOTS--INCINER-ATED IN VAIN!


I'LL MAKE SONIC PAY FOR THIS BY STRIKING DOWN HIS BELOVED UNCLE!

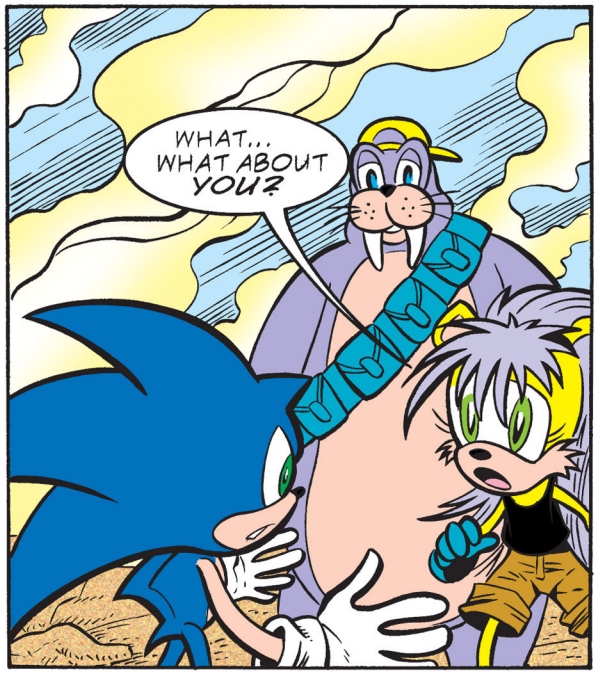
BAH! IT'S UNGRATIFYING IF HE'S NOT HERE TO SEE ME DO IT!
KLANK

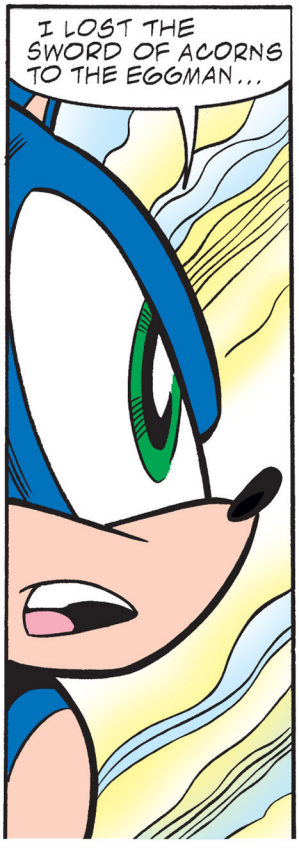

KNOTHOLE KINGDOM...
I'M HAVING DIFFICULTY BELIEVING YOUR SECRET SERVICE WOULDN'T HAVE NOTICED ANYONE ENTER OR EXIT, GEOFFREY!
COULD THE SWORD'S DISAPPEARANCE BE THE HANDIWORK OF THIEVES?
HIGHLY UNLIKELY, SIRE. DOES A PIRATE STEAL A TREASURE CHEST TO PURLOIN BUT A SINGLE GEM?
WHOEVER IT WAS TARGETED THE SWORD OF ACORNS SPECIFICALLY!

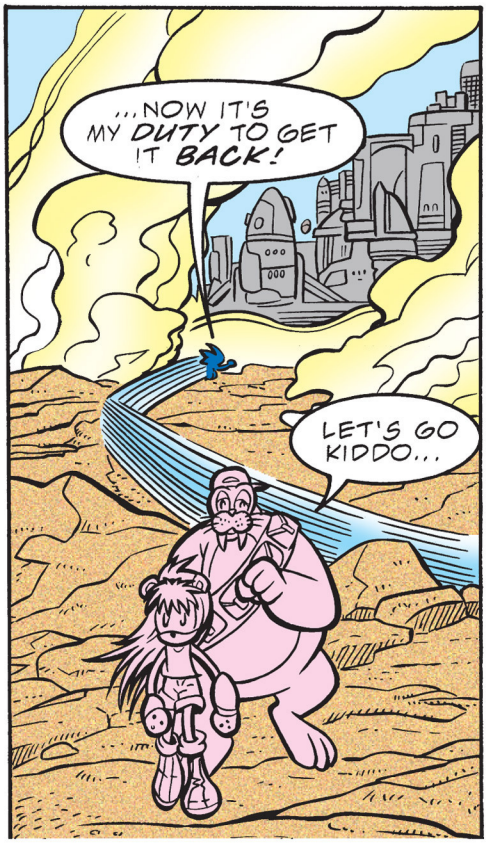

THE KNOTHOLE MEDICAL CENTER...
MY ENTIRE FAMILY HAS BEEN FINALLY REUNITED, ONLY TO LEARN THAT DAD HAS BEEN PARALYZED FROM THE WAIST DOWN...
MAX?!
NATE MORGAN?
I CAME AS SOON AS I HEARD THE NEWS. HOW IS HE?
SLEEPING.
HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE GONE INTO BATTLE.
A BIT LATE FOR THAT, OLD-TIMER. WHY DON'T YOU AND SALLY SHOW THE QUEEN SOMEPLACE BESIDES THESE FOUR WALLS...
...AND LET MAX REST?
7

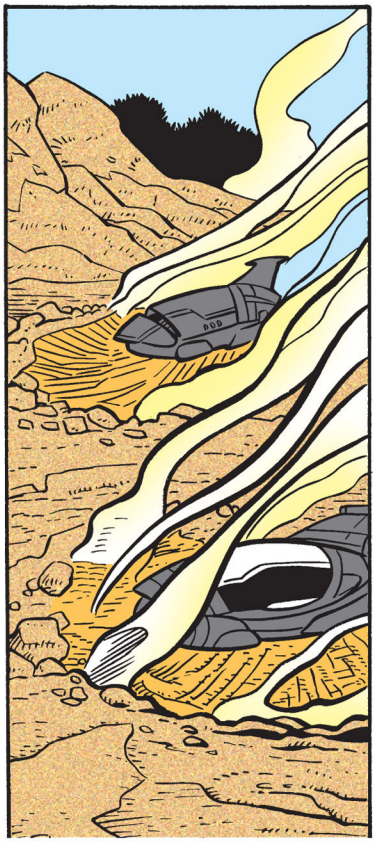

ALREADY SEEMS LIKE OLD TIMES AGAIN-- US VERSUS ROBOTNIK.
YEAH! ONLY IT'S NOT THE ROBOTNIK WE KNEW AND HATED. THIS BOZO'S FROM ANOTHER ZONE, AND TEN TIMES AS EVIL!

YOU TWO HEAD BACK TO KNOTHOLE AY-SAP!

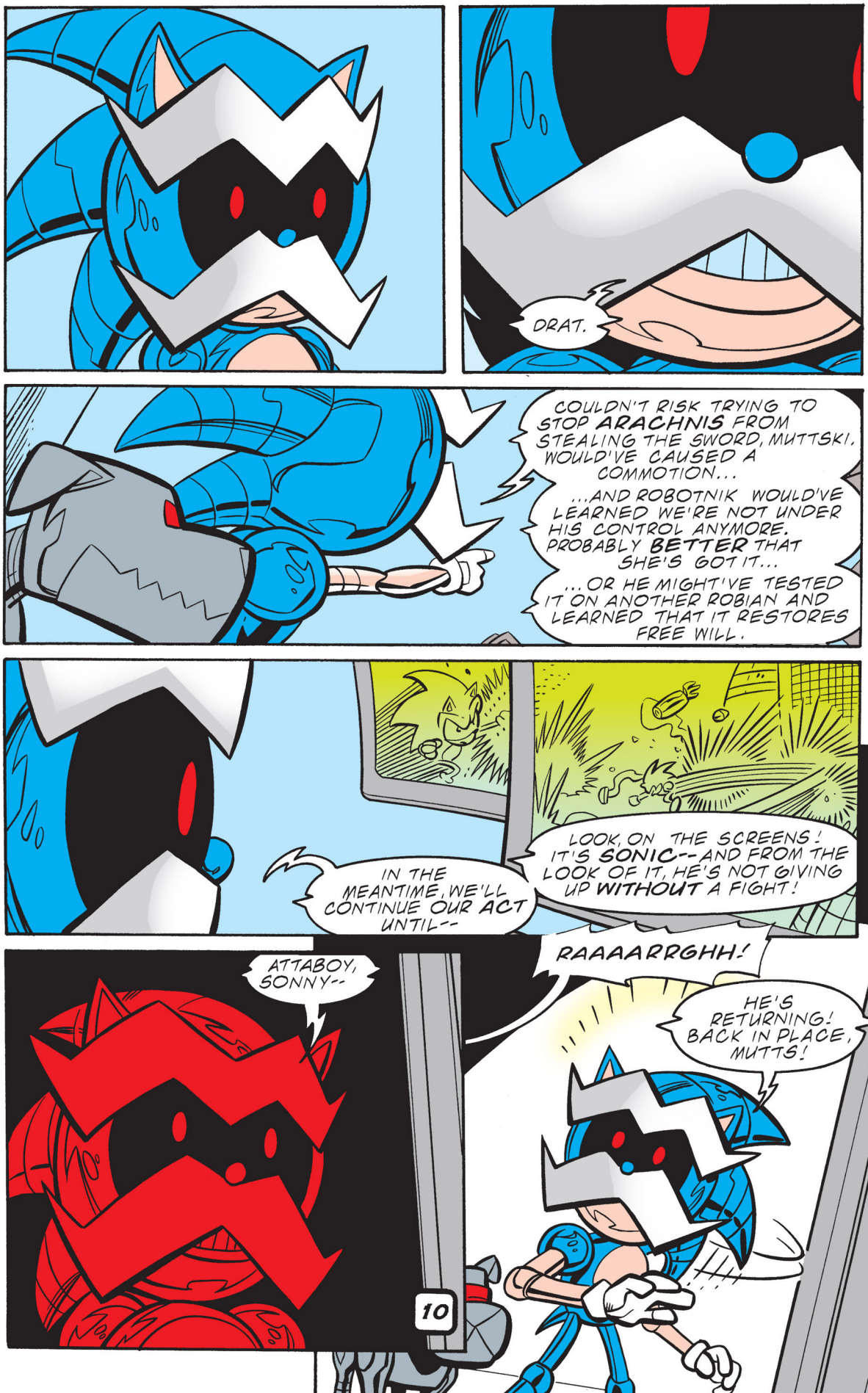

WHAT... WHAT ABOUT YOU?

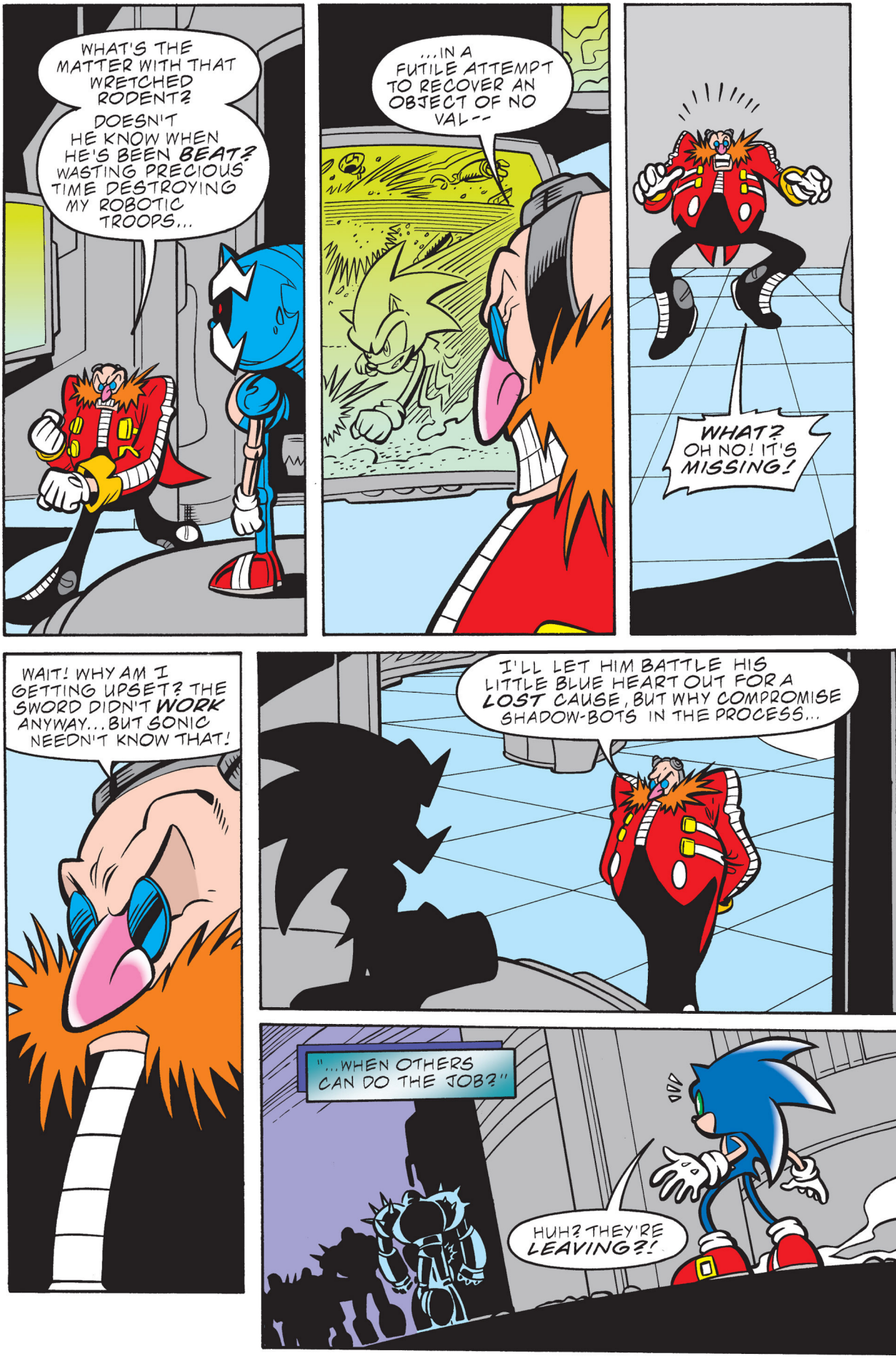

I LOST THE SWORD OF ACORNS TO THE EGGMAN...


...NOW IT'S MY DUTY TO GET IT BACK!
LET'S GO KIDDO...



FWAP
9

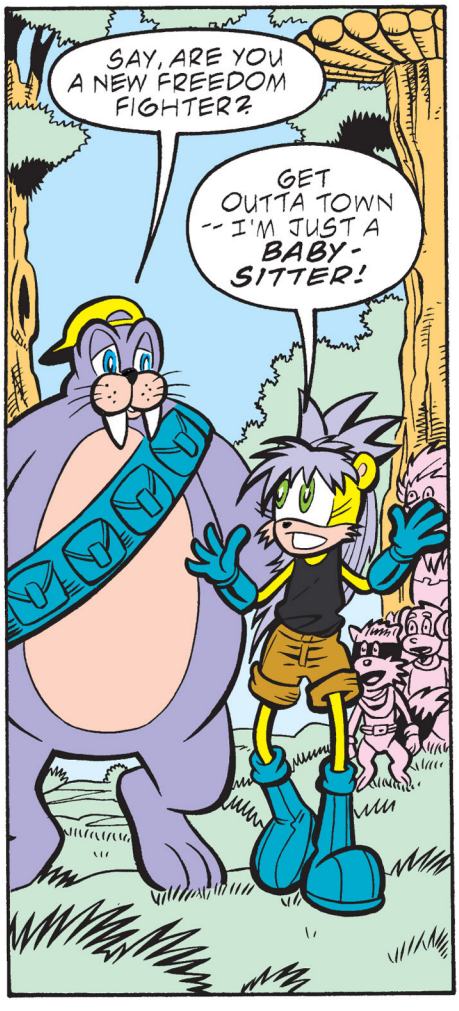

DRAT.
COULDN'T RISK TRYING TO STOP ARACHNIS FROM STEALING THE SWORD, MUTTSKI, WOULD'VE CAUSED A COMMOTION...
...AND ROBOTNIK WOULD'VE LEARNED WE'RE NOT UNDER HIS CONTROL ANYMORE. PROBABLY BETTER THAT SHE'S GOT IT...
...OR HE MIGHT'VE TESTED IT ON ANOTHER ROBIAN AND LEARNED THAT IT RESTORES FREE WILL.
LOOK, ON THE SCREENS! IT'S SONIC--AND FROM THE LOOK OF IT, HE'S NOT GIVING UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!
IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL CONTINUE OUR ACT UNTIL--
RAAAARRGHH!
ATTABOY, SONNY--
HE'S RETURNING! BACK IN PLACE, MUTTS!

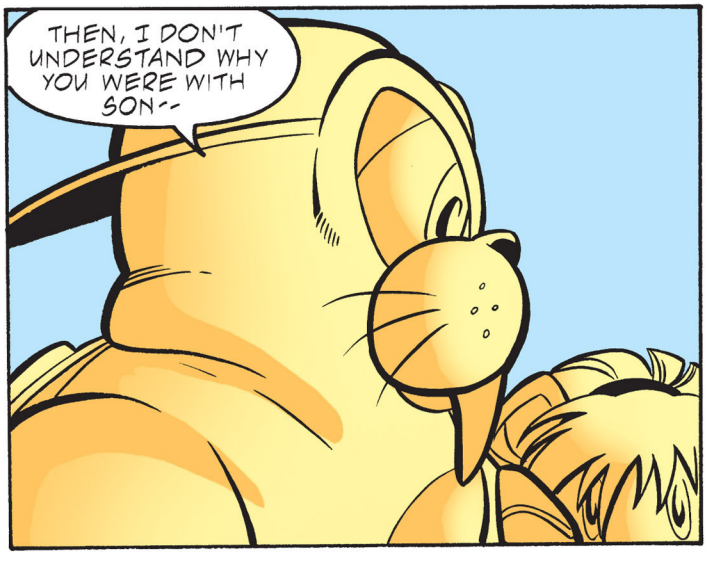

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT WRETCHED RODENT? DOESN'T HE KNOW WHEN HE'S BEEN BEAT? WASTING PRECIOUS TIME DESTROYING MY ROBOTIC TROOPS...
...IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO RECOVER AN OBJECT OF NO VAL--
WHAT? OH NO! IT'S MISSING!
WAIT! WHY AM I GETTING UPSET? THE SWORD DIDN'T WORK ANYWAY... BUT SONIC NEEDN'T KNOW THAT!
I'LL LET HIM BATTLE HIS LITTLE BLUE HEART OUT FOR A LOST CAUSE, BUT WHY COMPROMISE SHADOW-BOTS IN THE PROCESS...
"...WHEN OTHERS CAN DO THE JOB?"
HUH? THEY'RE LEAVING?!

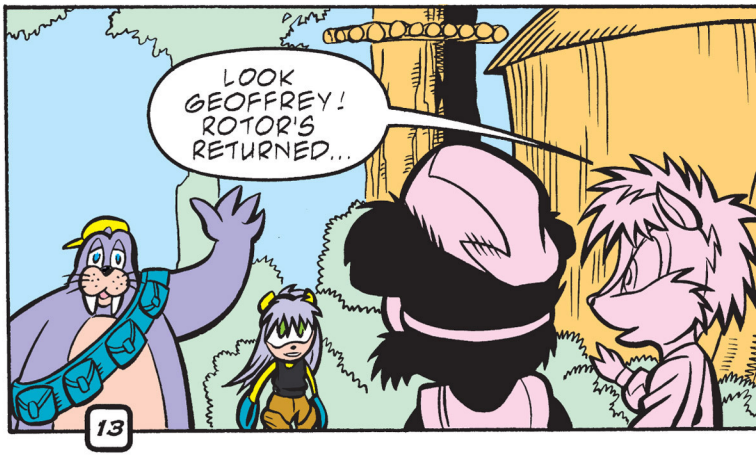
KNOTHOLE...
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN, NATE...
NOR I YOU, QUEEN ALICIA, BUT WE'LL HAVE TIME TO REMINISCE LATER...
...RIGHT NOW, I THINK YOU AND THE PRINCESS HAVE SOME CATCHING UP TO DO!
HE'S RIGHT, SALLY, BUT IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU? YOUR FATHER?
YES...
...PLUS WONDERING HOW ELIAS IS DOING WITH THAT MISSING SWORD BUSINESS.
I'M CERTAIN HE'S DOING JUST FINE--HE WAS BORN TO IT!
BORN TO IT, YES, BUT DEFINITELY NOT BRED.

ELSEWHERE...
SO EVERYBODY RELOCATED HERE AFTER ROBOTNIK INVADED?
YEP.

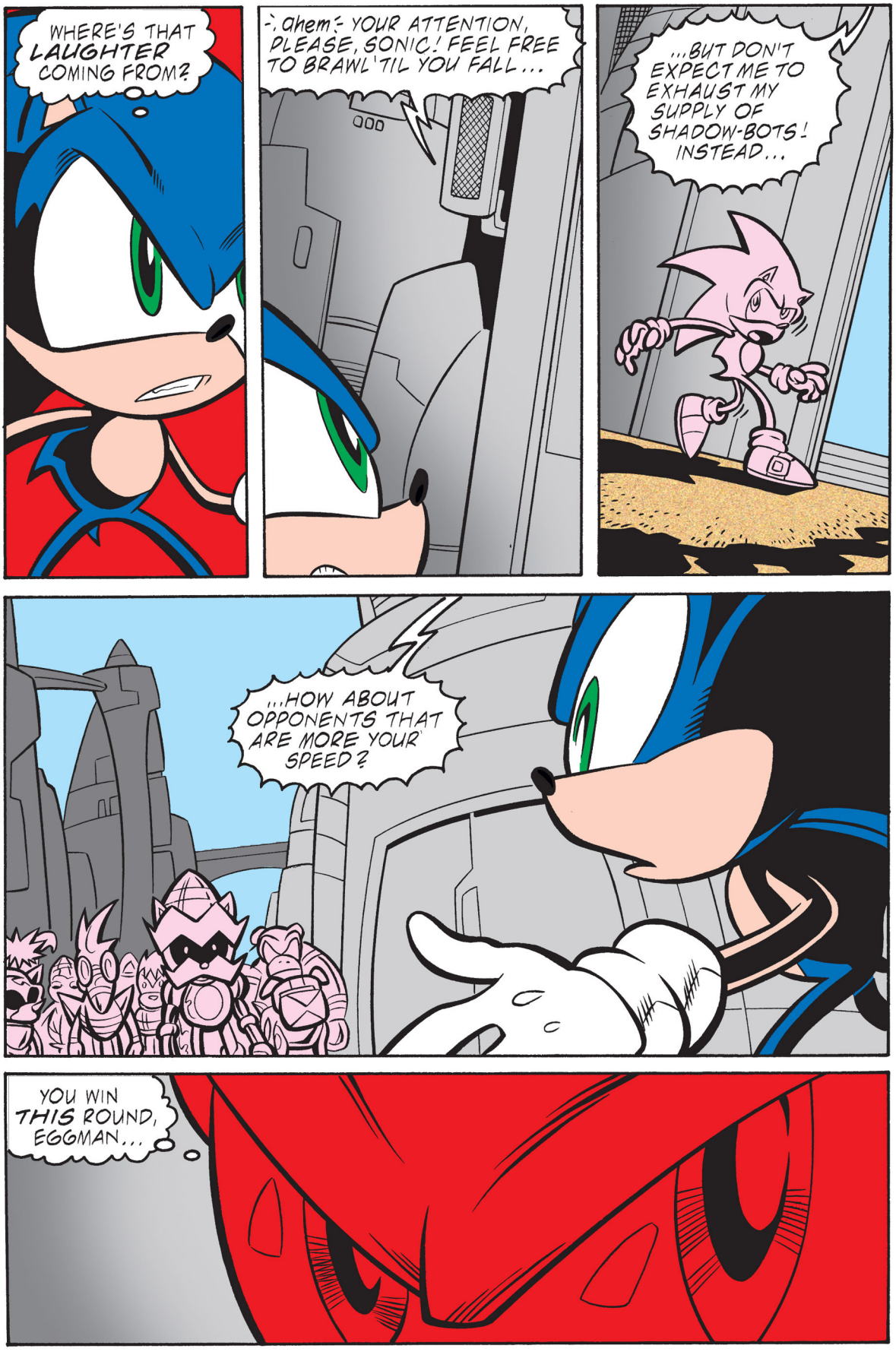
IT'S NICE BEING BACK.
I GUESS...

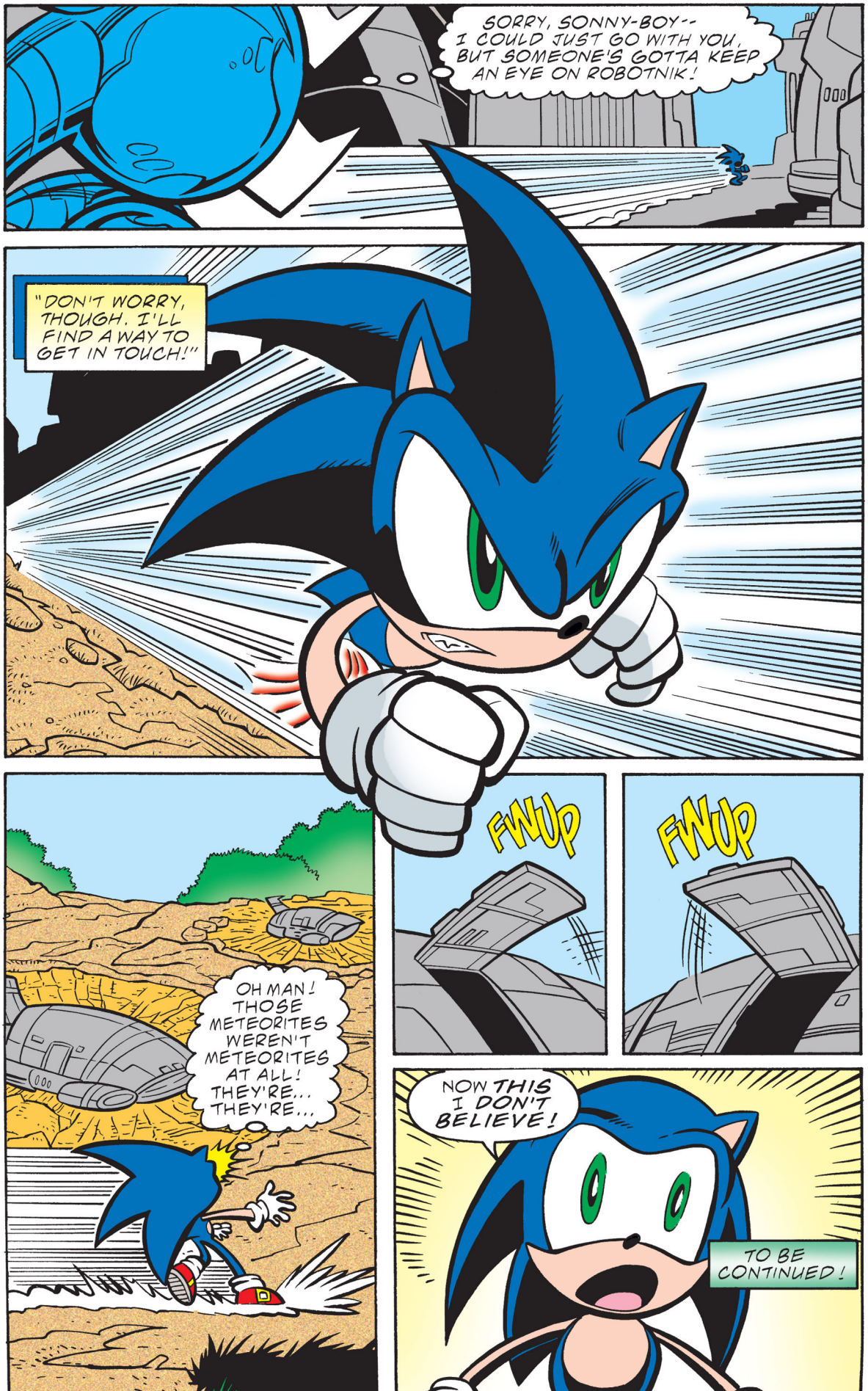

SAY, ARE YOU A NEW FREEDOM FIGHTER?
GET OUTTA TOWN -- I'M JUST A BABY-SITTER!

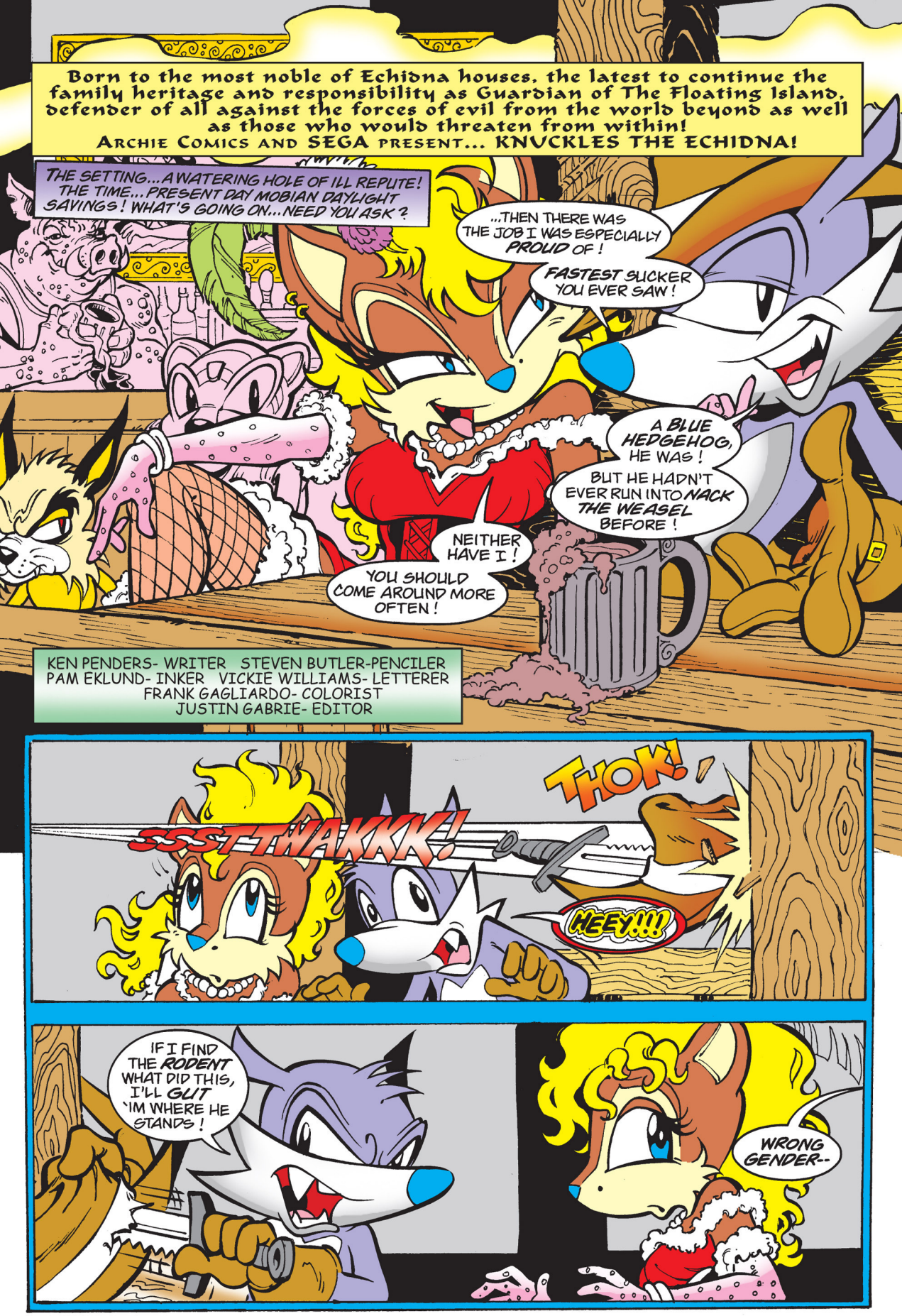

THEN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE WITH SON--


LOOK GEOFFREY! ROTOR'S RETURNED...

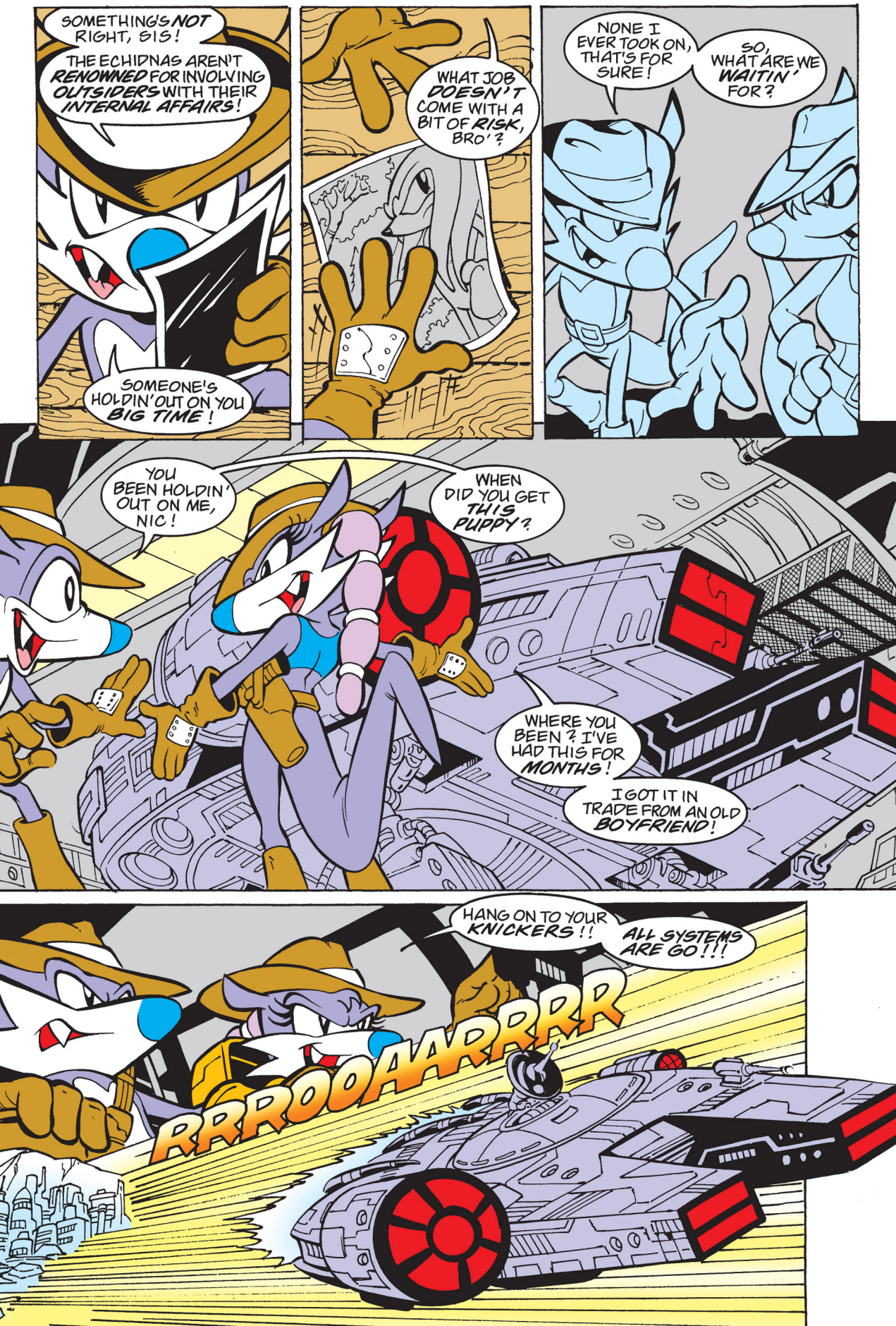
BENEATH THE STREETS OF ROBOTROPOLIS...
RAPT
RAPT
DID YOU GET IT? DUMB QUESTION. OF COURSE YOU GOT IT.
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE--
--LEMME HAVE IT!
HA
HA
HA
14

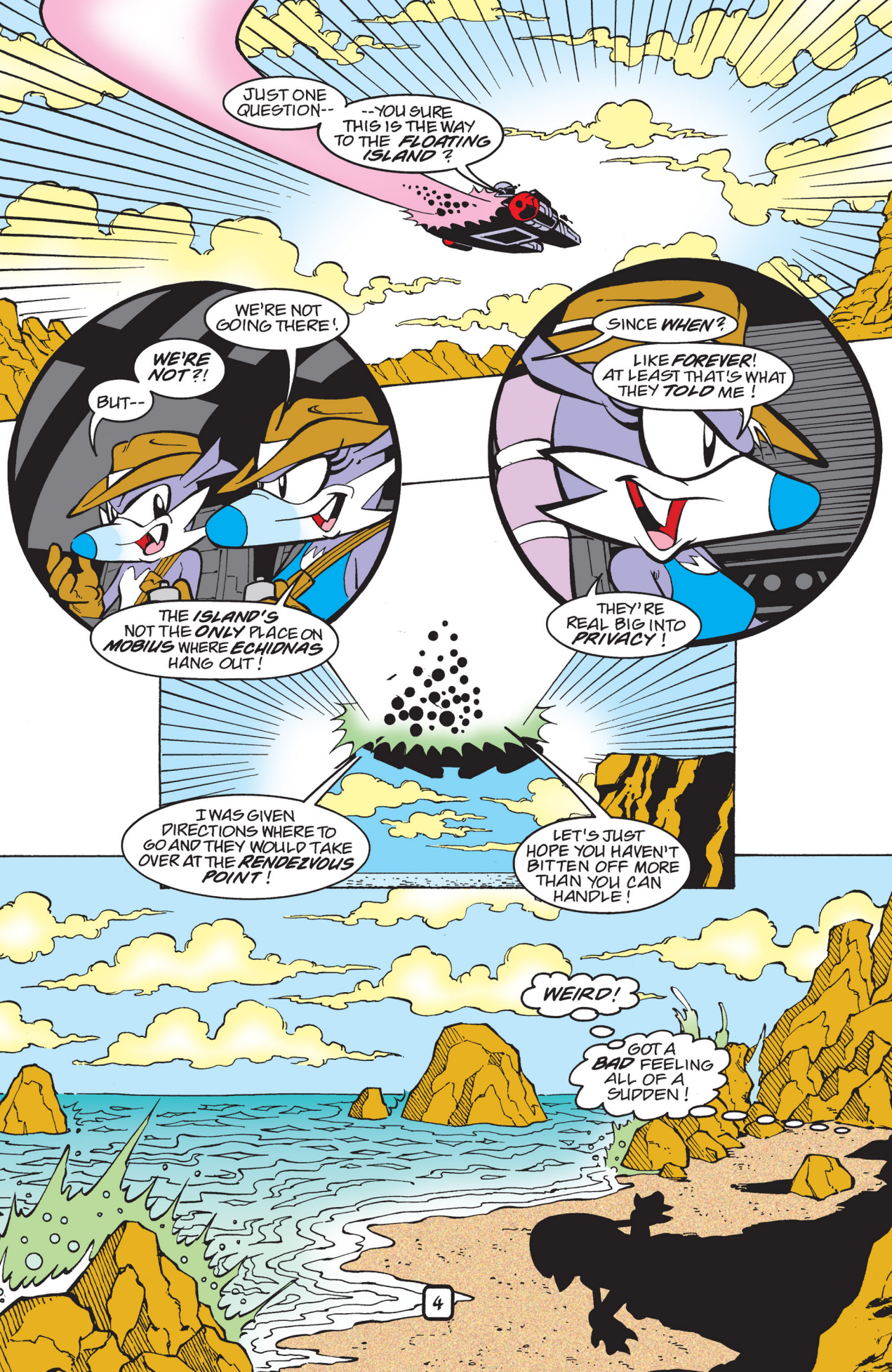

WHERE'S THAT LAUGHTER COMING FROM?
-:ahem:- YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE, SONIC! FEEL FREE TO BRAWL 'TIL YOU FALL...
...BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO EXHAUST MY SUPPLY OF SHADOW-BOTS! INSTEAD...
...HOW ABOUT OPPONENTS THAT ARE MORE YOUR SPEED?
YOU WIN THIS ROUND, EGGMAN...

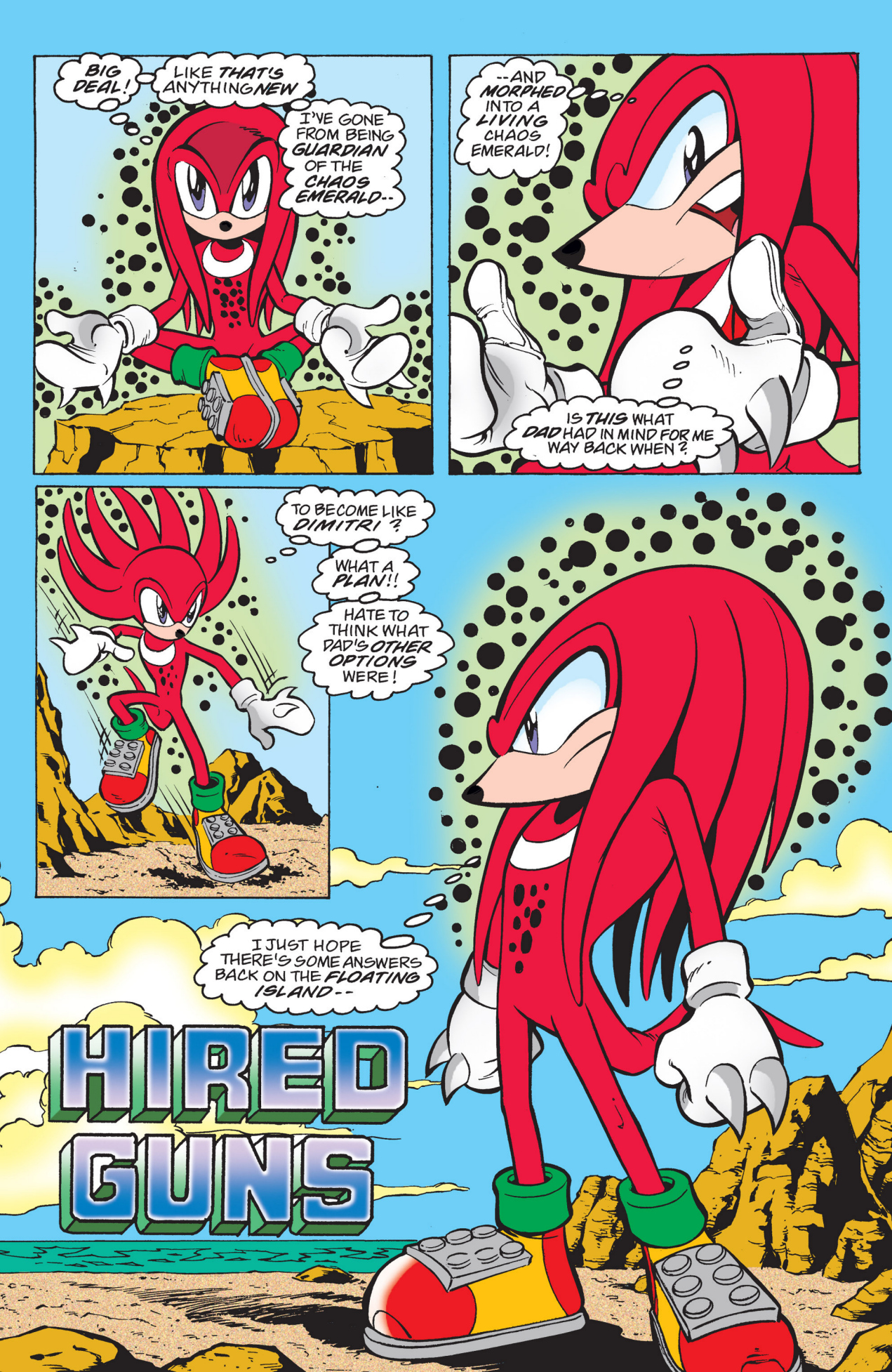

SORRY, SONNY-BOY-- I COULD JUST GO WITH YOU, BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA KEEP AN EYE ON ROBOTNIK!
"DON'T WORRY, THOUGH. I'LL FIND A WAY TO GET IN TOUCH!"
FWUP
FWUP
OH MAN! THOSE METEORITES WEREN'T METEORITES AT ALL! THEY'RE... THEY'RE...
NOW THIS I DON'T BELIEVE!
TO BE CONTINUED!

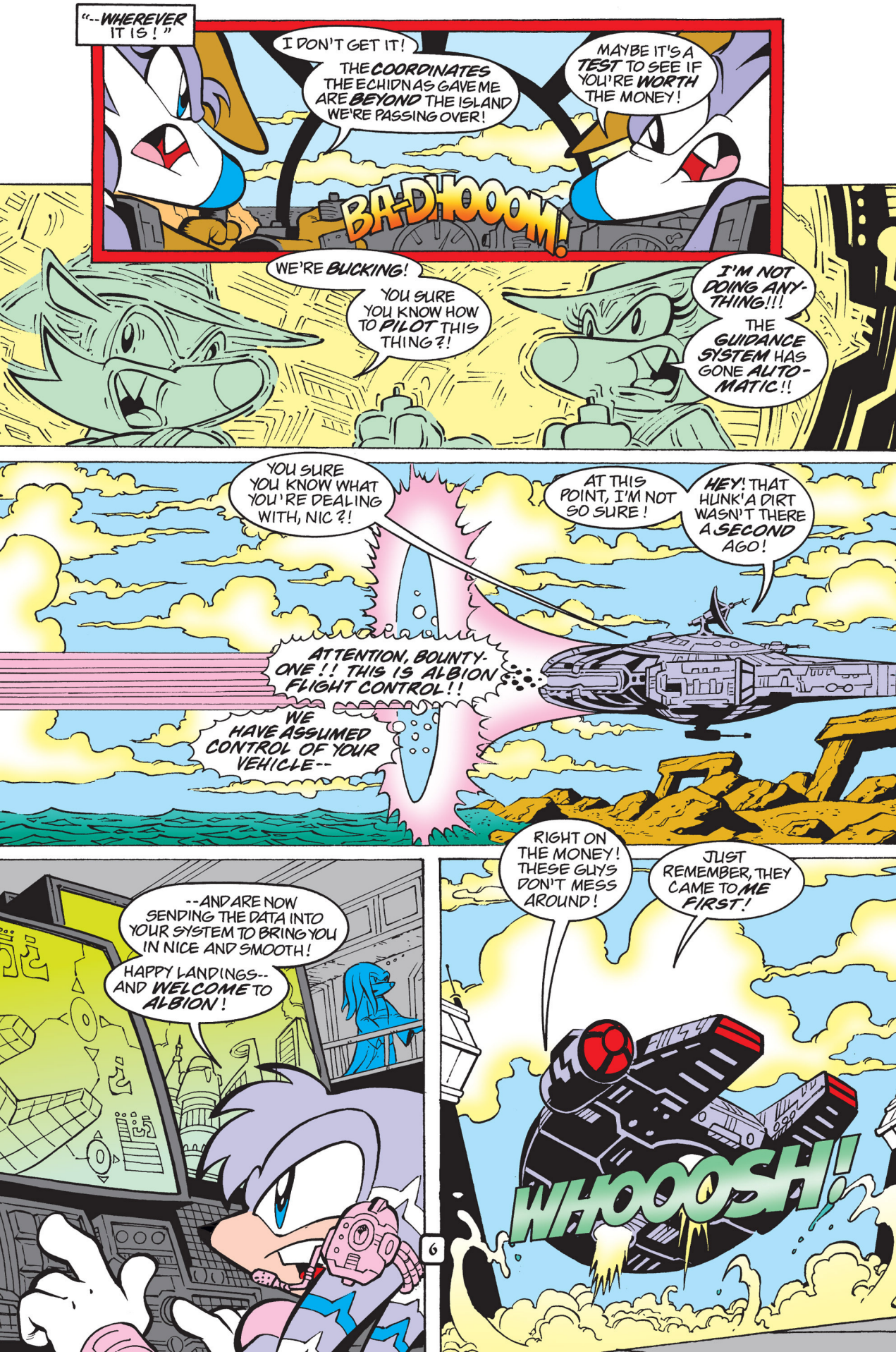

Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!
ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!
THE SETTING...A WATERING HOLE OF ILL REPUTE! THE TIME...PRESENT DAY MOBIAN DAYLIGHT SAVINGS! WHAT'S GOING ON...NEED YOU ASK?
...THEN THERE WAS THE JOB I WAS ESPECIALLY PROUD OF!
FASTEST SUCKER YOU EVER SAW!
A BLUE HEDGEHOG, HE WAS!
BUT HE HADN'T EVER RUN INTO NACK THE WEASEL BEFORE!
NEITHER HAVE I!
YOU SHOULD COME AROUND MORE OFTEN!
KEN PENDERS- WRITER STEVEN BUTLER-PENCILER
PAM EKLUND- INKER VICKIE WILLIAMS- LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO- COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIE- EDITOR
SSSSTTHAKKK!
THOK!
HEEY!!!
IF I FIND THE RODENT WHAT DID THIS, I'LL GUT 'IM WHERE HE STANDS!
WRONG GENDER--

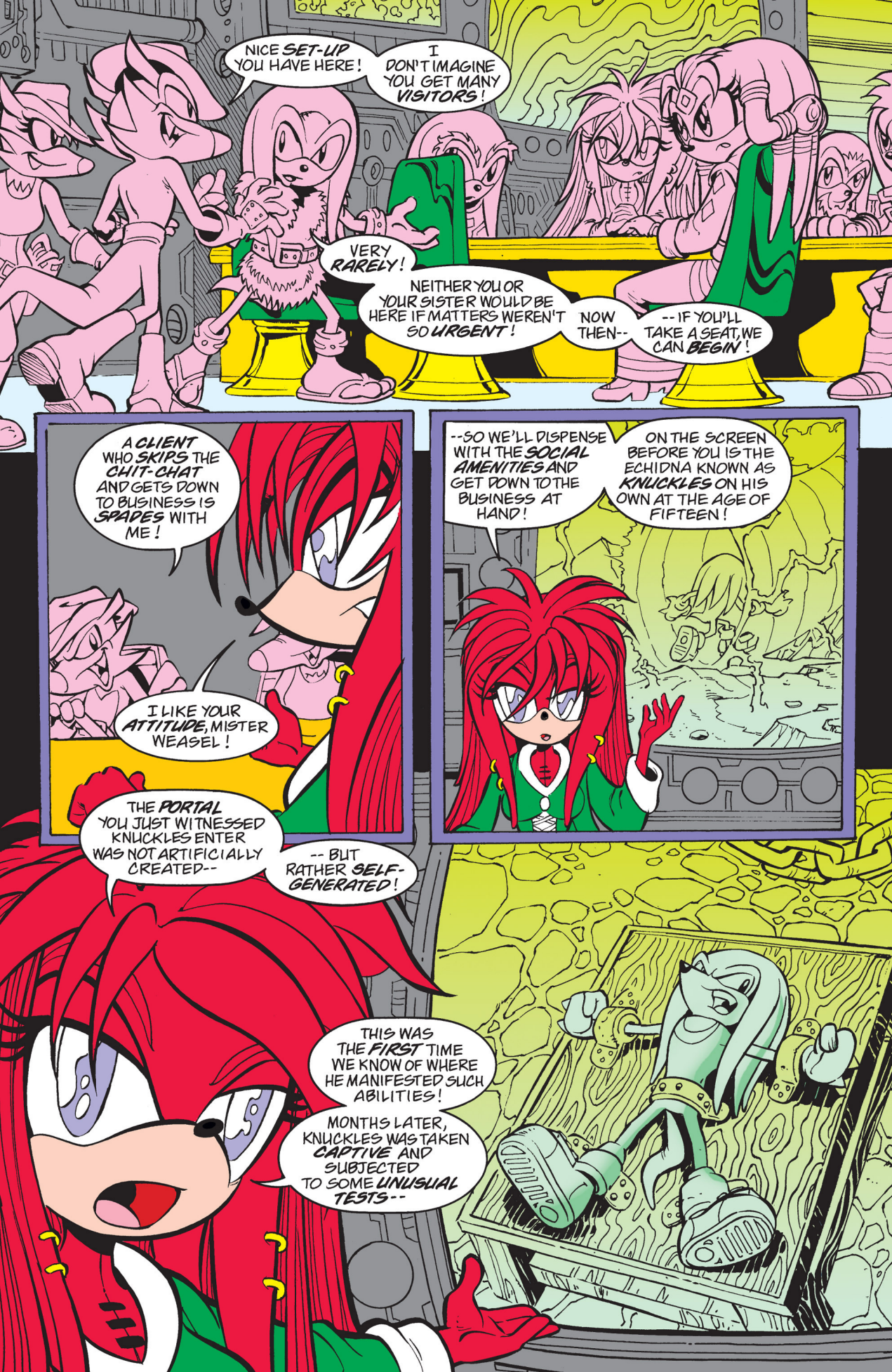
--AND I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!
NIC!!
YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT BEING MARRIED!
WHAT SORT OF GIRL DO YOU THINK I AM?
SLAAP!!
BUT I'M NOT-- OOW!!
YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T TAKE A PADDLE TO YOU FOR THAT!
FORGET THE GIRL! I'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER!
I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT!
WE'VE BEEN HIRED FOR A JOB!
"WE?" I WORK SOLO!
IF I COULD DO THIS ALONE, I WOULDN'T BE HERE, EITHER!
WHO'S THE CATCH?
HIM!
AND THE REWARD IS A KING'S RANSOM!
SO, ARE YOU IN OR OUT?

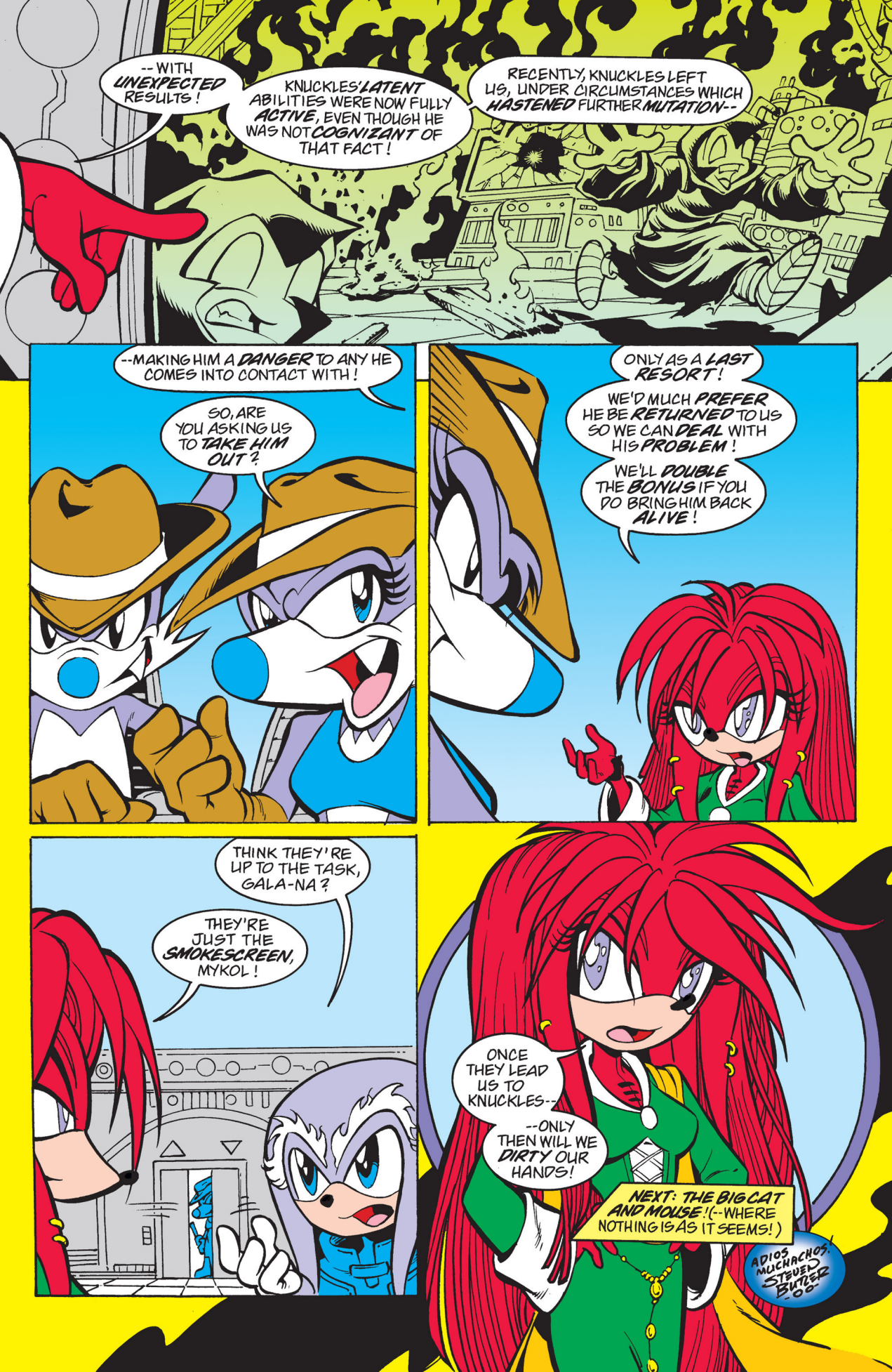

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT, SIS!
THE ECHIDNAS AREN'T RENOWNED FOR INVOLVING OUTSIDERS WITH THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS!
SOMEONE'S HOLDIN' OUT ON YOU BIG TIME!
WHAT JOB DOESN'T COME WITH A BIT OF RISK, BRO'?
NONE I EVER TOOK ON, THAT'S FOR SURE!
SO, WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?
YOU BEEN HOLDIN' OUT ON ME, NIC!
WHEN DID YOU GET THIS PUPPY?
WHERE YOU BEEN? I'VE HAD THIS FOR MONTHS!
I GOT IT IN TRADE FROM AN OLD BOYFRIEND!
HANG ON TO YOUR KNICKERS!!
ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO!!!
RRROOAARRRR


JUST ONE QUESTION--
--YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY TO THE FLOATING ISLAND?
WE'RE NOT GOING THERE!
WE'RE NOT?!
BUT--
THE ISLAND'S NOT THE ONLY PLACE ON MOBIUS WHERE ECHIDNAS HANG OUT!
SINCE WHEN?
LIKE FOREVER! AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME!
THEY'RE REAL BIG INTO PRIVACY!
I WAS GIVEN DIRECTIONS WHERE TO GO AND THEY WOULD TAKE OVER AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT!
LET'S JUST HOPE YOU HAVEN'T BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE!
WEIRD!
GOT A BAD FEELING ALL OF A SUDDEN!


BIG DEAL!
LIKE THAT'S ANYTHING NEW
I'VE GONE FROM BEING GUARDIAN OF THE CHAOS EMERALD--
--AND MORPHED INTO A LIVING CHAOS EMERALD!
IS THIS WHAT DAD HAD IN MIND FOR ME WAY BACK WHEN?
TO BECOME LIKE DIMITRI?
WHAT A PLAN!!
HATE TO THINK WHAT DAD'S OTHER OPTIONS WERE!
I JUST HOPE THERE'S SOME ANSWERS BACK ON THE FLOATING ISLAND--
HIRED GUNS


"--WHEREVER IT IS!"
I DON'T GET IT!
THE COORDINATES THE ECHIDNAS GAVE ME ARE BEYOND THE ISLAND WE'RE PASSING OVER!
MAYBE IT'S A TEST TO SEE IF YOU'RE WORTH THE MONEY!
BA-DHOOOM!
WE'RE BUCKING!
YOU SURE YOU KNOW HOW TO PILOT THIS THING?!
I'M NOT DOING ANY-THING!!!
THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM HAS GONE AUTO-MATIC!!
YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH, NIC?!
AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT SO SURE!
HEY! THAT HUNK'A DIRT WASN'T THERE A SECOND AGO!
ATTENTION, BOUNTY-ONE!! THIS IS ALBION FLIGHT CONTROL!!
WE HAVE ASSUMED CONTROL OF YOUR VEHICLE--
--AND ARE NOW SENDING THE DATA INTO YOUR SYSTEM TO BRING YOU IN NICE AND SMOOTH!
HAPPY LANDINGS-- AND WELCOME TO ALBION!
RIGHT ON THE MONEY! THESE GUYS DON'T MESS AROUND!
JUST REMEMBER, THEY CAME TO ME FIRST!
WHOOOSH!
6


NICE SET-UP YOU HAVE HERE!
I DON'T IMAGINE YOU GET MANY VISITORS!
VERY RARELY!
NEITHER YOU OR YOUR SISTER WOULD BE HERE IF MATTERS WEREN'T SO URGENT!
NOW THEN--
--IF YOU'LL TAKE A SEAT, WE CAN BEGIN!
A CLIENT WHO SKIPS THE CHIT-CHAT AND GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS IS SPADES WITH ME!
I LIKE YOUR ATTITUDE, MISTER WEASEL!
--SO WE'LL DISPENSE WITH THE SOCIAL AMENITIES AND GET DOWN TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND!
ON THE SCREEN BEFORE YOU IS THE ECHIDNA KNOWN AS KNUCKLES ON HIS OWN AT THE AGE OF FIFTEEN!
THE PORTAL YOU JUST WITNESSED KNUCKLES ENTER WAS NOT ARTIFICIALLY CREATED--
-- BUT RATHER SELF-GENERATED!
THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME WE KNOW OF WHERE HE MANIFESTED SUCH ABILITIES!
MONTHS LATER, KNUCKLES WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE AND SUBJECTED TO SOME UNUSUAL TESTS--


RECENTLY, KNUCKLES LEFT US, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HASTENED FURTHER MUTATION--
KNUCKLES' LATENT ABILITIES WERE NOW FULLY ACTIVE, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS NOT COGNIZANT OF THAT FACT!
--WITH UNEXPECTED RESULTS!
--MAKING HIM A DANGER TO ANY HE COMES INTO CONTACT WITH!
SO, ARE YOU ASKING US TO TAKE HIM OUT?
ONLY AS A LAST RESORT!
WE'D MUCH PREFER HE BE RETURNED TO US SO WE CAN DEAL WITH HIS PROBLEM!
WE'LL DOUBLE THE BONUS IF YOU DO BRING HIM BACK ALIVE!
THINK THEY'RE UP TO THE TASK, GALA-NA?
THEY'RE JUST THE SMOKESCREEN, MYKOL!
ONCE THEY LEAD US TO KNUCKLES--
--ONLY THEN WILL WE DIRTY OUR HANDS!
NEXT: THE BIG CAT AND MOUSE!(--WHERE NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS!)
ADIOS MUCHACHOS! STEVED BUTER -OO-